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Dordt College

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Issue 19

Dordt and Sioux Country featured in *The Des Moines Register*

Kristina Heflin
Staff Writer

During the week of February 12, *the Des Moines Register* examined the unique economic and community success of Sioux County residences in a three part series of articles titled, “Rooted for Success.”

“The idea to do the story sprang from a conversation with a banker in Rock Valley who said that the city has more jobs than it has people to fill them. From there the story expanded into an analysis of the entire county,” said Adam Belz, the business writer for *The Register* who covered the series on Sioux County and also narrated the short video “Sioux County: An Economic Success Story.”

The articles cover a variety of aspects of the county, from its agricultural roots that are the source of its current economic boom, to the influence of the Dutch Reformed religion that

permeates the area.

At the center of this hype is Dordt College.

Dordt’s own president, Carl Zylstra, was interviewed by Belz and featured in the articles.

“Reformed Christianity teaches the divine value of building things, whether that be a company, a cattle farm, or a part for a skid loader. We’re called not only to preserve Creation, but to develop Creation, and that affects business too, because human flourishing needs wealth creation,” said Zylstra in the article.

Belz says he believes that this principle held by Dordt graduates is inherent to the success of Sioux County.

“The way I see it, Sioux Center is a Dutch and Reformed place, and Dordt College is a key example of that. Since many Dordt graduates are in the area, the view of the world promoted by Dordt is important to understand,” said Belz.

One of the biggest aspects of



Photo by Bryon Houlgrave of “The Des Moines Register”

Dordt College that plays out in the local economy is its agriculture program; something not offered by the other Sioux County college, Northwestern.

“Cows and pigs outnumber people 44 to 1 [in Sioux County],” said Belz in his article.

With odds like that, providing the community with a ready and knowledgeable workforce in the field of agriculture is a definite advantage that Dordt claims.

Steve King, congressman for western Iowa, was also quoted in the article as a staunch admirer of Sioux County agriculture and work ethic.

“The churches, the work ethic, the belief in free enterprise, the educational component... that’s all built upon the foundation of some of the best farmland in the world,” King said.

Belz, and many others quoted in the article, seem to believe that Dordt College, with its em-

phasis on the “Protestant work ethic” and top notch agriculture department is integral to moral and economic success of the county in which it’s located.

“With a mix of feedlots and biotechnology, Christianity and capitalism, hard work and higher education, Sioux County is showing the rest of Iowa that it can be done,” said Belz.

The good, the bad, and the not-so-ugly of the Kuyper Apartments



Photo by Anna Stadem

Kristin Janssen
Staff Writer

Nearly two years after the Kuyper Apartments were opened up to seniors, students and staff reflect on the changes, improvements, and problems associated with the new building.

To gain a professional and

behind-the-scenes perspective on the apartment buildings, Stan Oordt, the head of the Maintenance Department on Dordt’s campus, took time to share some information on Kuyper.

There are both disadvantages and advantages to the upkeep and maintenance of Kuyper, as shared by Oordt. He “projects” that maintain-

ing Kuyper will be less work, but Oordt commented that it is “hard to tell” after only one full year’s use of the building.

“Because Kuyper has polished concrete instead of carpet, there is no need to do carpet cleaning in the summers,” said Oordt, regarding advantages of the building’s upkeep.

Due to government regulations, however, the electrical breakers Dordt was required to install are, according to Oordt, “very sensitive to certain pieces of equipment.” In addition, the sheet rock installed in the walls is a “more economical” and “user-friendly” grade, but this also means the walls are thinner and echo more than other grades of sheet rock.

In summary, Oordt called Kuyper “energy efficient.” He also referred to the senior housing as “structurally and aesthetically, a very nice building.”

Oordt and the rest of the Maintenance Department are pleased with the results they have had with Kuyper thus far, and he is thankful that the Kuyper residents are easy to

work with and patient with the minor difficulties.

Senior Hannah Cooper also provided her opinion and insights into the campus’s recent housing addition. A previous resident of Southview, Cooper said she prefers living in Kuyper. She especially enjoys the large amount of space, big windows, clean and new feel, and kitchen which she described as “very nice for cooking.”

However, Cooper also shared that some residents of Kuyper would prefer other apartment choices. Because Kuyper lacks carpet, Cooper described the apartments as feeling “more sterile” and “less homey.”

“Big rugs are expensive for poor college students,” said Cooper, “but without them, the apartments are uncomfortable.” Cooper also said the echoing bathrooms and hard couches add to the discomfort of living in Kuyper.

Cooper, still a fan of Kuyper, summarized her opinion and said, “Really, it’s not that bad at all. You can make

it nicer; it just depends on how you decorate.”

Matt DeBoer, a junior, is hoping to live in Kuyper next year. Why? “Because they’re better,” he answered almost immediately. DeBoer said Kuyper Apartments are bigger, nicer, newer, and in general, simply a step up from his current living conditions. DeBoer lives with four other guys in one East Campus apartment. He is sure that six guys in a Kuyper Apartment will still give them much more room than they currently have, along with other improvements.

“East Campus seems cold,” DeBoer shared, “I’m not really sure why.” Another highlight of the newer Kuyper Apartments is the dishwasher which DeBoer is excited to use.

Although the general consent is that the brand-new Kuyper Apartments are nicer than the newly-renovated East Campus Apartments and several improvements to Southview, there will be more new changes made to East Campus buildings A and B over summer 2012.

Prayer groups sweep across Dordt’s campus

Kristin Janssen
Staff Writer

Various Dordt College prayer teams and groups have been organizing events on campus involving special speakers and student involvement.

The Campus Ministries Prayer Team is one of the groups leading some of these events on campus. Aanna Stadem, one of the leaders of the prayer team, reported on its most recent workshop on fasting held this past Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The event was led by Shane Heilman, a worship leader and discipleship ministry coordinator from Sioux Falls. Stadem said about 30 people showed up to the event.

At the workshop, Heilman, a friend of Campus Ministries Coordinator John DeGroot, spoke on fasting and all of the dimensions it includes. Through small and large group discussions, Heilman shared his own journey within fasting. Heilman suggested that fasting is a spiritual practice necessary in the Christian life. He supported his idea by sharing health benefits, the

need for spiritual refocus, and the impact fasting has had on major church leaders throughout history.

Stadem, on the event, said, “I’ve had three conversations with my friends about [the fasting workshop] already. Fasting isn’t an enlightenment of your Saturday morning; It’s a lifestyle.” She shared that the Prayer Team hopes to continue doing similar workshops each semester and may even ask Heilman to return and speak on another topic.

The fasting event seems to fit well into several upcoming religious and Dordt community events of Ash Wednesday, Lent, and the 24/7 Prayer Week that the Prayer Team is planning.

Another opportunity for spiritual focus and development on campus is the Week of Encouragement planned by the CDA staff. Already this week, students have had the opportunity to create homemade encouragement cards, engage in communion with their roommates, and support their professors through notes of encouragement.

On Thursday, the Residence Life Staff will be serv-



ing the student body by taking out residents’ trash. Friday, each CDA will lead an hour of prayer in 55th Avenue, while Saturday will consist of campus-wide fasting. Sunday wraps up the week with a time of reflection and discussion in the Kuyper Loft at 7:30 p.m.

So far, the encouragement on campus seems contagious, and the CDAs are hoping it will continue to grow and serve on campus and in the community throughout the semester.

Finally, the Prayer for the Nations campus team is hosting a future event open to all

students. Jinny Seo, one of the team’s four leaders, shared a few details of the upcoming ministry. On February 28, Professor Mark Volkers will be joining the team for their usual time of prayer and worship. When the group usually meets, students share about prayer needs in many different nations; however, this special meeting’s focus will be on Kenya.

Following the opening singing, Volkers will talk about the prayer needs in Kenya based on his own time spent there. Volkers will share about the country’s history, current reli-

gious and political issues, his own experiences in Kenya, as well as what it means to use God’s gifts in different parts of the world.

“This special focus,” Seo said, “is to raise awareness of different nations because we don’t have opportunities to see what’s going on in other parts of the world.”

The meeting will conclude with prayer for Kenya and worship songs. It will take place at 9:30 p.m. in the Kuyper Loft and will be open to anyone who wants to come.

Cultural Fair brings diversity and awareness



Photo by Aanna Stadem

Kelsey Sederstrom
Staff Writer

This year’s Cultural Fair, held February 18 and hosted by the Students Without Borders Club, offered Dordt College students a rich taste of cultural diversity from sixteen different countries.

At each country’s booth, students could read a poster, see the flag, sample food, and even receive artwork. The Korean booth handed out shaped candies and calligraphy of student’s names, the Mexican booth gave out pastries from Olivia’s Bakery, and henna drawings were available at the Indian

booth.

In conversation with members of Students Without Borders, guests and students experienced a little taste of life in other cultures.

“I loved having people asking questions about my culture and then telling them facts that they didn’t know - sharing our cultures is always the best,” remarked Vero Visser, who participated in the cultural fair as a representation of Paraguay. Both the visitors and hosts of the cultural fair were excited to share their experiences and converse with each other.

The fair included a fash-

ion show with music. Deborah Tyokighir, the energetic announcer and representative of Nigeria, said that, “It was a lot of fun because being in front allows you to see people’s reactions/expressions to what is happening.”

Students in the fashion show wore traditional outfits from their country. Some, such as Jinny Seo, John Shin, and Claude Gillot, performed songs familiar to their native lands.

The energy of the fashion show heightened when the audience witnessed a Tae Kwon Do performance and The Cultural Fair concluded with a hymn sung by the Korean students.

Stephanie Black, a freshman from California, commented that, “It was really great to see all the different students from different countries sharing their culture with the students and public. I had a great time trying the different foods and learning a little bit more about the different places people are from.”

Some say Dordt is a welcoming place. Having the Cultural Fair encourages the friendship and cultural awareness.

Nicole Baart releases fourth novel: *Far From Here*

Danielle Richards
Staff Writer

Critically acclaimed author Nicole Baart discussed her writing process and recently released book at Dordt Collge on February 14.

Nicole Baart is the wife of Aaron Baart, the Dean of Chapel here at Dordt. She recently released her fourth novel, entitled *Far From Here*. Her new novel is available on Amazon.com and has received 4/5 stars on several reader review sites.

Baart visited two fiction writing classes and answered questions from staff and students about her strengths and weaknesses as an author. She also discussed the difficulties of being an author and mother of three.

“I want to write books that I would want to read,” she said on Tuesday. She says her stories often include situations or emotions that she has experienced in her own life.

“I love listening to people tell their personal stories, and I tend to internalize them,” Baart states on her website. “Some of those trials find their way into my books, but they are much

altered by my own creative interpretations.”

Baart also discussed her own writing process and how she writes her novels in the midst of a busy life.

“I typically spend six months in the planning,” she said. “I think about it and play it out like a movie in my head during certain times of the day.”

Baart said she tested out four different majors in college before choosing Secondary Education for English, Spanish, and ESL. “Of course, what I really wanted to do was write, but since I figured I needed a ‘real’ job, I bounced around a lot,” she says on her website.

Along with her busy life as a mother and author, Nicole Baart works as a foundational member of One Body One Hope, a non-profit organization seeking to improve the lives of orphans at Christ Our Hope Orphanage in Monrovia, Liberia.

Interested readers can visit Nicole Baart’s website at www.nicolebaart.com. Her website contains novel excerpts, interviews, a recent blog, and more information on One Body One Hope.

News

“She always had a big, beautiful smile on her face...”

The Dordt community remembers former student Tina Heilman who was recently killed in a tragic skiing accident



Alex Updike
Staff Writer

The Dordt community suffered a significant loss on February 11, when 2009 grad Tina Heilman was

killed in a skiing accident in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Heilman grew up in Orange City and attended Unity Christian High School. Employed as a nurse at Sanford Health-MeritCare,

Tina was putting her God-given skills and education to good use to help others. But Tina was much more than a local girl, much more than a Dordt graduate, and much more than a registered nurse. Even in her short life, she affected the lives of many people for the better.

Ashley Husiman, a friend of Tina’s from both Unity and Dordt, fondly remembered how Tina “always had a smile on her face and cared deeply about people.”

“That’s what inspired me,” Huisman stated. “Her heart to serve others. Tina was a beautiful example of what Christ calls His people to be: salt and light in the world.”

Nasia Wagenaar, a nursing student here on campus, first met Tina through her local church in Orange City, and then as they both moved through the nursing program. “She always had a big, beautiful smile on her face whenever I saw her,”

Wagenaar said. “Tina and her family were often my source of encouragement as I studied nursing. I hope that someday I can become the compassionate and dedicated nurse that Tina has inspired me to be.”

Jason DeBoer, another local Unity grad and Dordt student, also remembers Tina fondly. “Tina was always willing to help anyone no matter how busy she was. No matter where you were in life, you could always trust Tina to be there for you no matter what you were going through. Through knowing her and her passing, I’ve learned that every day is a gift from God and to live every day the best you can.”

Still others remember Tina through specific stories of how she changed their lives. Chris Van Dam, a senior, remembers being a scared, intimidated freshman at Unity and walking into the classroom of

his Living Group for the first time. One of the leaders of that group was none other than Tina, who was “all in smiles and excitement about meeting me, a freshman. The specifics of the activities our group did that year was not what had a lasting impact on me,” Van Dam said, “it was the closeness of the group and the compassion that was facilitated by Tina and the other leaders.”

One theme ran strong through each and every memory of Tina: her smile. Tina smiled . . . all the time. And that smile was contagious, it affected people and made their lives better; people could see Jesus in that smile.

“She was incredible,” Van Dam said.

Dordt bids farewell to a number of esteemed professors

Kristina Heflin
Staff Writer

This year, Dordt College will be saying farewell to several professors from various departments. Karen DeMol (Music dept.), Socorro Woodbury (Spanish dept.), Keith Sewell (history dept.), Robert Hilbelink (business dept.), and Jim Schaap (English dept.) are all among those currently serving their last semester at Dordt College.

Although these professors come to us from different backgrounds, they each have found their place in Christ’s kingdom here at

Dordt College.

Professor Sewell has come to us from perhaps the farthest away. Originally from London, England, he has also spent many years living in Australia, and will be returning there once he leaves us.

For Professor Schaap, retirement also means a journey, though one of words, not miles. He plans to continue writing stories, some of which Dordt students may already be familiar.

“Retirement for me means no more classrooms and more time with my fingers on the keyboard,” Schaap said.

Over the years, though, it’s the students that have kept these hard working professors young and engaged.

Professor Schaap, when asked about his favorite part of teaching, replied, “Students. They drive me nuts, but sometimes going bezonkers is a good thing.”

The professors aren’t the only ones who benefit from the relationships built within the classroom, however. Hundreds of students have been touched by the faculty’s gifts throughout the years, whether it is in the music department, learning a new language, or

how to conduct business in a Christ-like manner.

For example, History Education major and Dordt junior Ashley Henry, has had many classes with Professor Sewell and loves the classes that focus on world history.

“He [Professor Sewell] has taught a lot about the past and other countries and has shown how they were essential to America and other nations. He helped me to see how the past shaped history to what it is today, and that the past is a major key in understanding the founding and ideas that occurred in America,” said

Henry.

Linguistics/Spanish major and Dordt junior Lisa Young has also enjoyed the many classes that she had with Professor Woodbury. “Aside from helping us improve in Spanish, she also has classes discuss issues that relate to the people of the Spanish speaking world and Spanish speakers who live here in the States. We learn to think about things as someone from a Latin American country might,” Young said.

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Features

The true story behind “The Gift”

In 1994, art Professor Jake Van Wyk had an idea—an idea that would alter Dordt’s campus and community. This idea was one that would take eight months of hard, honest work. The fallback, however, was that the process of such a major installment had to happen by the fall of ’95. Ever wondered where “The Gift” came from? For those of you who are lost, it’s the friendly, stationary greeting you receive every time you go to class—perhaps even waiting for a salutary hug.

Despite seeing it every day, many people are unaware of the symbolism and time behind this elaborate work of art. After Van Wyk presented the planned permanent art piece to the Dordt board, it was eventually decided to be a commemorative work for Dordt’s 40th Anniversary. It took 750 total hours of planning, creating, and installing—180 of those hours completed in ten days. You do the math. The piece required 3,800 pounds of clay; it was then hollowed by section and filled with cement. For you pottery fanatics, the piece required six weeks to dry and thirty kiln firings of forty-five hours each. In a recent interview, Van Wyk said, “I lived in the studio. It was nuts. My wife took meals out to me.”

The thought behind the piece is what Van Wyk really desires people to embrace while looking at The Gift. “It is both abstract and a celebration,” he said. “It’s outdoors and in public—people are forced to respond to it.”

Themes such as total depravity and human frailty inspired Van Wyk in the early stages of planning. “We, as human beings, are held back by our temporal existence,” Van Wyk said.

When asked of the stance of The Gift, he explained the concept of tentatively reaching out and giving our best to God. The cement block supporting the gift includes tiles representing all department fields at Dordt, presenting their work to God. The rings surrounding the statue symbolize the fact that we are bound by our human limitations. Looking closely, there are a series of marks on the rib cage. Van Wyk said, “It’s a metaphor of hidden, emotional pain we all experience.”

Danielle Zuidema, a freshman student, said, “The statue is reaching upwards to remind us that, though we might not always realize it, we are [and] should be working for the glory of God.”

Van Wyk also experienced a personal epiphany in the middle of creating The Gift which then added more symbolic meaning to the work of art. “While in the process, people came to me and asked me if I realized that it really looks like the form is receiving rather than giving,” Van Wyk revealed. “I didn’t consciously think of this...we’re presenting, yes, but we receive the grace to do so from God.”

A common question students often ask regards the figure’s gender. Van Wyk acknowledges that it is indeed androgynous, possessing both male and female characteristics—the intent is to provide everyone an opportunity to relate. “It feels like humanity,” Van Wyk said.

Jordan Edens, a junior art major, recognized another aspect in the statue’s nudity as she said, “The body is created in the image of God and originally we didn’t have clothes.”

Despite clear intentions behind the nudity, The Gift is a prime target for pranks. It is often covered by a plethora of objects, including, yet not limited to, a Snuggie and Mardi Gras necklaces.

It is not an unusual site to see students suddenly slow their walk to class while observing the new creations. When asked about the various pranks, Van Wyk said “I enjoy the pranks—they remind me that the students are engaged and having fun.” Regarding the most recent prank, Van Wyk smirked while saying, “Looks like someone used my printmaking cotton balls...”

There you have it folks: The Gift’s history, symbolism, and purpose. Van Wyk’s work has definitely not been in vain; along with an aesthetically pleasing and ponderous piece, he created an iconic work of art.

- Aanna Stadem
Staff Writer

Throughout the years, “The Gift” has been the target of many Dordt pranks. These are just a few of the many looks “The Gift” has displayed.



Opinion

“You Do It!”

My Grandfather’s Country...

Hank Houtman
Columnist

As I heard the President speak during the past weeks about his contraceptive plan in regards to religious institutions, I became worried about the future of Religion within our country. I understand that the president said he would not force religious institutions to pay for these contraceptives, but the act of allowing your workers access to this medication through another means is no different. If your religious conviction is that these medications are a form of abortion, then it is fundamentally wrong and hypocritical to stand by and allow your workers to have access to these contraceptives.

I am not stating my opinion on this medication, but rather showing you the danger of allowing the government to force these regulations upon a religious institution. The moment we allow a government to intrude into the religious realm, we are all at risk. Whether a person is a Christian, Muslim, or Mormon, everyone faces the threat of future threats.

You do not have to agree with the other persons beliefs, nor do you even have to talk to them, but one must remember that as religious people we all stand threatened when a government tries to tell us how to act. We all have fundamental freedoms that cannot and will not be infringed upon.

Therefore, it’s time that Christians, students, teachers and parents stop standing idling by. Yes, we are not strictly against some contraceptives, but we cannot leave those who are alone in this fight. If we do then we are no different than those who choose to leave us on our own when be faced with persecution for our public openness about our faith.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we need to take this issue seriously and not ignore it. We are the future of the nation, and it’s time to stand up. Do you want to wake up in ten to twenty years and say “Where was I when this started?” Now is the time to stand up for your faith. Don’t be afraid to tell the government to cram their regulation.

There are moments in history where the people stood up and said, “enough!” Now is that moment. I pray that we will have to courage to actually stand and not cower in a corner. The walk of faith is not an easy walk, and if you are simply coexisting with the world, then there is a problem. We are supposed to make noise; we are supposed to be known as the crazy folk. Why? Our Faith goes against everything the secular world stands for!

“It is not so much that prayer changes things as that prayer changes us and then we change things. We can’t ask God to do Himself what He created us to do ourselves.” -- Oswald Chambers.

Isn’t it so easy to just ask God to help the poor? to heal the broken? to feed the hungry? We think that by interceding through prayer on behalf of those in need, we have done our part and can move on with our day. But God has different ideas—His ideas might not be as easy, but they bring much more satisfaction, the kind that goes way down deep and can only come from doing the work of our Lord.

He has given us the amazing privilege of taking part in His work, and yet we so easily pass up the opportunities and opt for a simple prayer instead. Don’t get me wrong—I don’t want to undermine the power of prayer, but God has empowered us to do so much more than pray. That’s why I think Chambers hit it right on target by saying that prayer changes us so that we can in turn go change things.



Danae Geels
Columnist

Take an example from the Bible. In Mark 6:30-44 we read the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand. We’ve all heard the story - Jesus had been teaching the crowd for a while and the disciples suggested that the people were probably getting hungry. They asked Jesus to send them away so that they could get something to eat. In some sense, they were interceding for the crowd to be fed. But Jesus wanted to give the disciples an opportunity to take part in His work. So He said, “You feed them.”

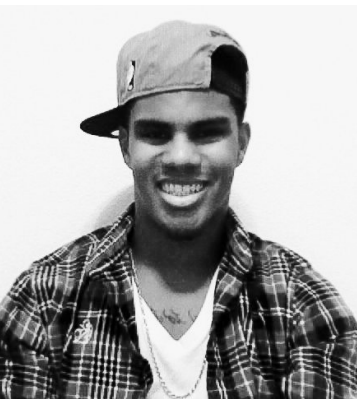
Not surprisingly, the disciples didn’t get it. Think-

ing practically, they asked, “With what? We’d have to work for months in order to earn enough money to buy food for all these people.” But Jesus told them to gather all they had and to give it to Him. By asking about the need to be changed, they were instead changed by God to be able to go out and do the work themselves. Once they gave all they had to Jesus, He stepped in and performed the miracle.

I believe that the same is true today. When we recognize a need and ask God to fix it, I believe He is still telling us, “You do it.” Because of His incomprehensible love, God refuses to do what we are capable of doing ourselves. We are so fortunate to have a God that lets us take part in benefitting His kingdom.

So my challenge for you is to be open to recognizing the needs in our world. Once you ask God about these needs, be prepared for God to transform you so that you can go out and do it yourself. Then take a step back and marvel at the satisfaction you receive from being able to take part in God’s work.

The Hendy Show



Alex Henderson
Columnist

Could you imagine what it would be like if all your friends were famous?

Let’s be real -- those odds are limited.

How about a more reasonable scenario? What if you never met your friends?

Who would you be? That just sucks to think about.

Imagine life without the people whom you have shared your most cherished memories with.

I know; it’s irrational to even make you consider such a thing.

Lately, I find myself reaching out to my friends and making sure that they know how important they are to me.

I can always count on my friends to be there for me whenever and wherever I am.

I’ll even go so far as to say that my friends are better than your friends.

You would be surprised to know that I don’t have as many friends as you think I do.

I can’t speak for everyone, but I find it interesting and unusual how I have gravitated to these same people and vice versa.

We all have our differences, but we’re real mavericks that flout normalcy.

So I guess you could say we’re not fighting for the same space and we’re just trying to find our niche as we enter a new chapter in our lives.

The most important thing for me, however, is knowing that no matter what my next move is I know I still have those who were there from the very beginning.

From the playground until now, plus or minus a few years, I have become exactly the company I keep. Thanks to gravity.

Be glad that your friends are your friends. Let the people around you know how much you enjoy their influence.

In the end, who needs fame when you have great friends?

Count those blessings and show love.

Senioritis:

Adrian Hielema
Columnist

So things are heating up in the U.S. presidential race. Not that I care, I just needed a segue into this week’s topic: the Dordt presidential race.

Come graduation, President Zylstra will have done his time on our fair campus, and will pass on the torch, most likely while laughing maniacally. I’ll be honest, I don’t know how much faith I have that the next president will be a good one. Usually these types of decisions are made by committees, which as everyone knows, are the source of all disasters in the world today. Know what sank the Titanic? An iceberg. Named “committees.”

Come to think about it, I’ll be long gone by the time the new president assumes his throne on the top floor of the campus center. But since I care about the plight of underclassmen just so very much (bahahahahaha), I suppose I should give some pieces of advice to any potential presidency seekers:

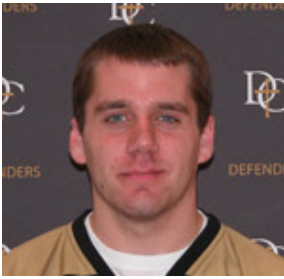
1. Don’t be an idiot.

Okay, that’s all I got. But since that’s going to leave a lot of white space in this column, let me give you a special treat, one that involves something very popular on Facebook right now. I humbly present the Dordt College Presidential Meme:



Sports

Harmy's Army (of thoughts)



Jordan Harmelink
Sports Editor

The Dordt College baseball and softball teams will kick off their respective seasons within the next week, and that brings up in a point about this game that is muttered often -- Baseball is boring to watch.

Here we go...

Frankly, I get a little when people call baseball boring. I have even had one person tell me they would rather watch a NASCAR race than watch a baseball game; seriously? If you think the game is boring, you don't get the bigger. Let me explain.

Think of each pitch as a "play." This means that baseball has over 300 "plays" and each of these plays might end innocently with a foul ball, strikeout, or a slow grounder to the second baseman; but then each might also change the outcome of the game. One play turns the game around.

Look back at the World Series last fall between the St. Louis Cardinals and Texas Rangers. The Cardinals were down to their last strike and Cardinal's third-baseman David Freese came up with the biggest hit of his career: a two-run triple that sent the game into extra innings tied at seven runs apiece. Freese eventually hit the game-winning round-tripper to send the World Series into a decisive seventh game where the Car-

dinals won and were crowned World Series champs. Freese was named the World Series Most Valuable Player.

Tons of little "games" go into a baseball game. Take, for example, a pitcher-versus-batter duel where one is trying to win the battle at the plate. Each pitch is important. What about a runner on first base in a tight game? Does the manager risk sending him to steal second and put him in scoring position? Far more exciting that watching cars circle for hours.

Those who think that baseball is boring probably haven't played the game themselves. It's not easy having less than half a second to decide what type of pitch is coming at you while you are at the plate. It's not easy fielding a groundball with millions of people watching your every move. Professional ball players make it look easy, but that's only because it's almost second nature to them -- but their abilities do not exclude the possibility their making a mistake.

Baseball is America's pastime, one of the first organized sports created; It has a long, outstanding tradition of being one of the greatest games ever played. Respect the game.

'Take Me Out to the Ballgame'

Shanna Braunschweig
Staff Writer

Dordt College's baseball team is ready for a new season to begin. Friday, February 24 is their first game versus Manhattan Christian in Manhattan, Kansas.

Although the team struggled last year, Coach Jeff Schouten is hopeful that this year things are going to turn around. "We have a lot of new freshmen and a few transfers this year" said Schouten. We have some key positions that were filled due to the new guys coming in so we are definitely looking forward to a new season," he said.

Three seniors, Travis Dekkers, Zach Staudt, and Eric Torgerson, spend a lot of time on court, and they bring strong leadership to the team. In addition there is some young talent as well. Aaron Parks, a freshman, will pitch, as well as Ben Van Kekerix who transferred from Augustana. Sophomore Lucas Carls will also be pitching, building on last year's experience

"We are a lot deeper there this year," said Schouten. "The pitcher is such an important position and it was somewhere we were a little bit thinner last year." Nathan Fraley, who played some lengthy minutes as a freshman but left Dordt, has returned to the Defender line-up as well.

Senior Zach Stout is excited for this year and wants to forget about last season's record. "There had to be some bad luck involved last year," Stout said. "It was a combination of bad luck and we weren't super great." However Stout has hope, saying that this year the starting rotation, hitting, and defense looks significantly better than last year.

Stout mostly plays left field but also was a designated hitter in the past. When asked about his favorite part of being on



Photo by Aanna Stadem

the team he said, "Probably the team itself. Being on a sports team you automatically have friends, as long as you're not a loser." When asked if the team was ready for their first game Stout stated, "I think so. Well, I'm ready. Left field is raring to go."

In March, the team travels to Arizona for spring break where they will be facing some difficult opponents. The team's biggest opponent this year will be Doane College, who has been picked to win the conference. The players are eager to get outdoors rather than practicing in the gym.

Senior first baseman Travis Dekkers is the "big hitter" for the team. However he says he is used to the pressure by now and doesn't think it's a big deal. "We have a lot more talent this year as well as a lot more younger players, which can be good and bad," said Dekkers, "And we're a lot deeper this year, especially with our pitch-

ing."

As a senior, Dekkers tries to set a good example for the younger players and be a leader on the field. "If I need to be intense I try to be intense, but at the same time I don't want to overplay it," Dekkers said.

About next Friday's big game he said, "We should be (ready). We're definitely ready to get outside, that's for sure. A lot of guys can look really good inside, it's when you get outside and play against other teams that you can see whose going to do well."

The team's goal for this year is to make the conference tournament. Since they have been in the GPAC, Dordt has never qualified for the conference tournament.

So get out your peanuts and cracker jacks and follow the Dordt baseball team to victory this season!

First basketball GPAC Championship in Dordt history



Justin Pastoor
Staff Writer

This season, Dordt College basketball has been one to remember. History has been made. In Coach Ross Douma's third year

as the men's head basketball coach, Dordt College has won the regular season GPAC championship for the first time in school history.

With a regular season record of 26-3 (17-3

in conference), this year has been the best season Dordt has ever had.

Winning the regular season guarantees Dordt two things: a one-seed for the GPAC tournament and an automatic bid in the NAIA National Tournament in Point Lookout, Missouri in early March.

The season concluded with wins over Concordia and Doane. On February 11, Dordt got their 25th win of the season in a game which honored senior point guard T.J. Malone and senior student coach Dustin Katje. February 18 capped the season with an 86-73 win.

"It is always nice to win,

but more important to tap out a team's potential on a given year, and we are still in the process of trying to do that and will be doing so until we play our last game in Branson," said Coach Douma. "During the season there really is not time to reflect on what has or has not been accomplished or to focus on trying to constantly improve. Perhaps when the season is over we will be able to look back favorably on what we have done."

This season also marked the first year in which all players were recruited by Coach Douma, many of whom have been seeing

varsity playing time since they came to Dordt.

"They know exactly what we are trying to accomplish as a program. This group is very unselfish and is willing to sacrifice personal gain for that of the team, and as a result our chemistry is very good," said Douma. "There are things we do to try to promote and enhance that, but a lot of credit has to go to these players' parents and high school coaches. They also do a good job of being relentless and just competing; they practice very hard and those habits transfer over to games."

Arts and Entertainment

Emily Hageman: Senior voice recital

Hannah DeVries
Staff Writer

While the upcoming performance on February 25 will be a vocal showcase for senior Emily Hageman, it will not be your typical vocal recital.

The performance will be involving more than just one person. Emily Hageman, majoring in secondary choral music education, said that this is what will make it unique.

“As a musician who takes performance very seriously, I’ve come to realize that it isn’t just solo work,” said Hageman. “A performer needs to be able to work with other musicians in order to create a wonderful musical experience.”

The recital is not only a culmination of Hageman’s vocal career at Dordt, but also a reflection of her education major as well. “Also, as an education major, it was important to me to work with others and create ensembles as that’s what I will be doing for my future career,” Hageman said.

Not only will there be a variety of students involved in the performance, but a variety of musical styles as well. Song selections range in date from 1688 to 1979.

Hageman said some pieces will be dry and simple, while others will be from sweeping, romantic operas. “I wanted to show my versatility as a singer, yes, but I also wanted my audience to be able to experience a little bit from each time period.

There’s something in my program for everyone, or so I like to think,” said Hageman.

Hageman added that it is her hope for students to enjoy the music, but also gain an understanding of the various styles presented.

“There are several pieces that will be a lot of fun to watch including two vocal trios, a duet, and a piece with chamber instruments in a Baroque-style,” Hageman said.

Among the students accompanying Hageman will be Nicole Low on oboe, Jason Kornelis on cello, and Krista De Vries and Brian De Young as piano accompanists. Vocalists include bass Brian De Young, soprano

Rachel Kooiman, soprano Mia Kornelis, and tenor Eric Spoelstra.

“Getting ready for this night has been a challenge,” said Hageman. “Some of my pieces are very demanding vocally,” she said.

Now that the work is done, she said she plans on showing her audience just what she is capable of. “I’m really planning on leaving it all on the stage and giving my very best performance in everything,” Hageman said.

The performance will take place February 25 at 3 p.m. in the B.J. Haan Auditorium, followed by a reception.



And the winner Is...

Prairie Grass Film Award Ceremony



Photo by Aanna Stadem

Rachel Mulder
Staff Writer

Twenty-six films were screened on campus on the evening of Friday, February 18 before the 6th annual Prairie Grass Film Challenge Award Ceremony.

The award ceremony was held in the B.J. Haan, but this year people could watch from all over the country via online streaming. This is the first year the award ceremony was streamed online. It allowed teams from all over the country to watch the ceremony even if they could not make it to Sioux Center.

Three main awards were given out including Best of Show for High School, Best of Show for College, and Best of Show for Post-College. Two other awards were Overall Runner-Up and People’s Choice.

Dark Matter Productions won in the high school category for their film entitled “Chrono,” Providence Productions’ film “Maxumentary” won best of show for college, and the post college best of show winner was Paragon Productions with their film

“50/50.”

Bradd Nymeyer and Mark Verbruggen, both Prairie Grass Committee Members, were the emcees for the evening. Verbruggen has had six years of emcee experience, but this was the first year for Nymeyer.

“I really enjoy seeing how various filmmakers take the assigned elements and weave them together into a coherent story. It’s also fun to watch the audience’s reaction to the films,” said Nymeyer.

“I like how many [teams] come with a group of loyal supporters, and [I like] seeing the teams show up so excited,” said Verbruggen.

The films were screened on campus in Kuyper Loft, Eckardt lounge, De Yager Activity Center, and classrooms in the Science Building and Campus Center. The screening portion was held from 5:45 p.m. until 7:45 p.m.

Voting is still open for the People’s Choice award. Go online to www.dordt.edu/filmchallenge through March 3 to vote for your favorite film.

Theatre with a Purpose: “In but Not Of”

Bryan Visser
Staff Writer

This Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, Nick Van Ee’s “In but Not Of” will play at the Dordt College New World Theatre at 7:30 pm.

Six actors will star in the collection of five short plays that make up the performance.

Van Ee said the plays will show what he describes as the “human search for meaning and the various realms of existence.”

“I really like the deeper meaning. It’s not just theatre. It’s theatre with a purpose,” said student Shannon Spargo.

Van Ee explained that each actor in the production will be starring in at least five roles with some starring in as many as ten roles.

“I’d say the hardest part was also the most enjoyable...playing such a differing range of parts is not only exciting but also challenging. To be able to distinguish each part in its own special

way, even in minor roles, was the real challenge of this show,” student actor Jon Hageman said.

“It’s been very fun because there have been so many different characters and our team of actors really worked well together and has a lot of energy that makes it very dynamic,” said Spargo.

Van Ee remarked that some actors have to change roles in a brief time frame: “I have an actor who walks offstage, has a hair change in the dark, walks in front of the light, has a costume change and comes back on as a different character in the space of less than 30 seconds,” said Van Ee.

Several actors expressed their hopes for good feedback on their performance.

“I can’t wait to hear everyone’s comments on the play. It’s unique, funny, and serious all at the same time,” said student actress Rebekah Dykhuizen said.

“The show as a whole has a deeper meaning, but even at the

surface-level it is very entertaining and I would strongly encourage anyone to come and see it,” said student actress Megan Ludens.

“We’ve been going at this so long we’ve forgotten the moments that are funny the moments that are deep and serious. I think it’ll be very interesting

to feed off of what the audience gets from it,” Spargo said.

The cost of admission will be two dollars for students and five dollars for adults.

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What if...

A humorous look at the many “what ifs” that could drastically affect your life



By Alex Updike

If I say the name Gjjsbert Haan, it probably wouldn’t mean anything to most people, and not just because I wouldn’t be able to pronounce it correctly. However, good ol’ Gjjsbert has played a pivotal role in your, yes your, education.

You see, back in 1857, Haan was the individual responsible for the Christian Reformed Church (CRC) splitting from the Reformed Church of America (RCA). Yes, Haan was responsible for a reforming of the reformed, a sort of reform-ception if you will, only without Hans Zimmer writing music to make it exciting.

But what if Haan hadn’t happened upon his reforming vision? What if, on the day the thought occurred to him that lead to that fateful split, Haan had seen his dream girl washing clothes in the river, or churning butter, or doing some other stereotypical 19th century female duty, and his mind had become preoccupied with her? I know that it may be hard to fathom a reality where members of the Reformed tradition aren’t always arguing and telling each other how wrong the others are, but bear with me on this one.

I want to jump straight to one specific outcome of this alternate reality. I mentioned earlier how this humorously-named gentleman has affected your education. Well, that is because, obviously, without a split between members of the CRC and RCA, Dordt and Northwestern would not be separate colleges. Now calm down, pick up the paper you just chunked across the room, and keep reading - it’s not as bad as it sounds, I promise.

So what if Dordt and

Northwestern were combined? First of all, it would still be called Dordt because the name Northwestern is boring and unoriginal. Can you imagine if everything were named as unoriginally as that? Instead of our capital being named Washington D.C., after the general who helped take down the 18th century powerhouse known as “Great” Britain, it would be called East. This has ramifications of its own that I refuse to go into, but I digress.

Secondly, all of our athletics would be combined into one mega athletic department. Our basketball teams would be better; our volleyball team, better; our track team, soccer teams, baseball team, and football team ALL would be better. Our school spirit would have the strength of a raging fire, it would have the force of a great typhoon, and our stadiums would be louder than my apartment last Saturday night. It would be . . . wait for it . . . legendary!

Thirdly, there would be so much more to do. Think about all the cool events Dordt puts on, then think about all the cool events that Northwestern puts on (yes, Northwestern does cool, exciting things too), and then imagine both of them together! There would literally be exciting events and fun things to do every weekend . . like most colleges.

Finally, Dordt would be much more well-rounded. Did you know that some colleges actually have their own theater buildings? And that some colleges actually have dance events, not to mention dance events that students love? With lame-named Northwestern conglomerating with Dordt, the new Dordt would have all this artsy stuff, and with the merging of Northwestern students into the new Dordt, a decent percentage of the student body would actually care about.

So there it is. Without Mr. Haan, Dordt and Northwestern would have no reason to become separate colleges. Instead, we end up with Dordt 2.0, if you will. The only question left is, where would this new campus be? Well, Sioux Center has a Wal-Mart; Enough said.

Feature Photo



“Remember it snowed last week? Aanna Stadem enjoyed the winter wonderland while snapping some shots of campus.”

Top 10 Things to Do in Sioux Center after 10 p.m.

Adam McDonald
Editor

We all know that most places don’t close around 10:00 p.m. However, many places in Sioux Center never got that memo. Here is a list of the top ten places to go and things to do after 10:00 p.m. in Sioux Center:

- 10) Home. With so many people living locally, home is always an option. Some can walk, others drive. There is always a friend’s house to go to off-campus, and if you are nice, maybe their mom will make you cookies and do your disgusting laundry free of charge. Just don’t forget to give her a kiss on the cheek.
- 9) Wal-Mart. Yes, many of us figured this out freshman year, but to students, Wal-Mart is more than just a supercenter. It’s a portal to a land with unlimited blenders, bouncy balls, foam swords, and giant-screen TVs.
- 8) Sandy Hollow. Where else can you find FROLF, FROLF and more FROLF? Sandy Hollow. I don’t know about you, but the name seems deceiving to me. There is no sand and most of the things aren’t hollow. Unless you count that time I met a girl named Sandy who had a giant hole in her stomach. Then I guess the name is ok.
- 7) Children’s Park. Not sure if the park is for children or if children own the park. Either way, it doesn’t stop us when we want to relive our childhood. Just be careful not to run into the monkey bars.
- 6) A cornfield. “Now Adam, what’s so special about a cornfield?” My answer? Nothing. Ask again, “Now Adam, what’s so special about a cornfield at night?” I’m glad you asked. Looking up at the stars and back into your lover’s eyes almost makes you forget how small we really are.
- 5) Inside. In the Iowa winter, leaving the room isn’t always an option. Guys, keep playing Xbox. Girls, I can’t give you any tips because I honestly have no clue what you do when guys aren’t around so keep doing whatever it is that you do.
- 4) The gas stations. Wait.....is it past 10? Yeah, they are closed.
- 3) McDonald’s. Yeah I know you have heard about all the different health issues and ways they prepare your food. So what? Nothing is better than a McChicken and manly mocha Frappuccino in the wee hours of the night.
- 2) The Internet. Yes, the internet. You can literally go and see anything in the world thanks to Google images and Google maps. Go to Egypt and see the Pyramids. Go to Australia and peruse the landscape. The world is at your fingertips.
- 1) Facebook. Let’s face it -- at 10:00 p.m., none of us really want to organize something to do, let alone actually go anywhere and entertain ourselves. Besides, “Words with Friends” is actually pretty addicting.



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